United Nations A/S-25/4

General Assembly

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Twenty-fifth special session

Letter dated 5 June 2001 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present 18 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (1999-2000) are the following:

	United States dollars
Burundi[a]	171 700.00
Central African Republic	285 900.00
Comoros[a]	778 500.00
Georgia[a]	6 475 700.00
Guinea	19 600.00
Guinea-Bissau	424 800.00
Haiti	20 400.00
Iraq	12 320 200.00
Kyrgyzstan[a]	94 720.33
Liberia	1 042 200.00
Niger	302 900.00
Republic of Moldova[a]	2 799 099.00
Sao Tome and Principe[a]	555 200.00
Seychelles	161 200.00
Somalia	956 500.00

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	United States dollars
Tajikistan[a]	2 029 505.00
Uzbekistan	881 689.50
Vanuatu	8 000.00

[a] By its resolution 55/5 A of 26 October 2000, the General Assembly decided that Burundi, the Comoros, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe and Tajikistan would be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2001.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

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Twenty-fifth special session

Letter dated 8 June 2001 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letter dated 5 June 2001 (A/S-25/4), I have the honour to inform you that Haiti and Vanuatu have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

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Twenty-fifth special session

Agenda of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 1st plenary meeting, on 6 June 2001

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Finland.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Credentials of representatives to the special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President.
5. Report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).
6. Organization of the session.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
9. Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
10. Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.
11. Adoption of the final document.

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Twenty-fifth special session
Agenda item 3
Credentials of representatives to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Denis **Dangue Réwaka** (Gabon)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 6 June 2001, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its twenty-fifth special session having the same composition as that of the Credentials Committee at the fifty-fifth regular session, namely: Bahamas, China, Ecuador, Gabon, Ireland, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting, on 6 June 2001.

3. Denis Dangue Réwaka (Gabon) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 5 June 2001 concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs made a statement relating to the memorandum by the Secretary-General, in which, inter alia, he updated the memorandum, indicating those credentials and communications received subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the twenty-fifth special session, in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been received as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 50 Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Fiji, France, Gabon, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

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6. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of the representatives of Member States to the twenty-fifth special session had been communicated to the Secretary-General, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned, by the following 75 Member States: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

7. As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, the following 54 Member States participating in the twenty-fifth special session had not, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, communicated to the Secretary-General information regarding their representatives to the session, but had previously empowered their permanent representatives to represent their respective States in all organs of the United Nations without limitation as to session: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Finland, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

8. Ten Member States had not yet communicated to the Secretary-General any information regarding their representatives to the twenty-fifth special session: Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Tuvalu.

9. The Chairman recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all Member States mentioned in the Secretary-General's memorandum, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the present report would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

10. Having considered the question of the credentials of Afghanistan, the Committee decided to take the same position as was taken at the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

11. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

"*The Credentials Committee*,

"*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General dated 5 June 2001,

"*Accepts*, subject to the decision contained in paragraph 10 of the present report, the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

12. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

13. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 15). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

14. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

15. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

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Twenty-fifth special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda items 8, 9 and 10

Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Mr. Alireza **Esmaeilzadeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

At its 3rd meeting, on 9 June 2001, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole adopted its report and recommended that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution to which was annexed the Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.

[For the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, see A/S-25/AC.1/L.1 and Add.1-5 and L.2.]

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Twenty-fifth special session
Agenda items 8, 9 and 10

Review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Letter dated 8 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that, following the sad passing away of Their late Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and King Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, the entire Nepalese people are in mourning. Therefore, I shall, as the head of the Nepalese delegation to the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, not be delivering the statement of Nepal in person.

I would therefore like to request you to issue the enclosed text of my statement as a document of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Murari Raj **Sharma**

01-40776 (E) 130601

Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Address by H.E. Mr. Murari Raj Sharma, Permanent Representative and Head of Delegation of Nepal to the special session of the General Assembly (New York, 8 June 2001)

I wish to begin by expressing, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the people of Nepal and on my own, our profound gratitude to Member States for the deep tribute paid to Their late Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and King Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev at Their untimely passing away. Your sympathy and support will go a long way in helping us overcome the profound grief of this catastrophic tragedy.

Allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate you for the leadership and wisdom with which you have been conducting the work of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). I also pay tribute to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements for the excellent preparations of the special session.

In Istanbul, we all agreed on two key goals: adequate shelter for all and development of sustainable settlements. Five years on, the Habitat II Agenda has helped developing countries to put in perspective the problems and policy environment of urban development, but there has been very little progress in implementing the agreed measures for lack of necessary resources and capacities.

Cities have been engines of growth, nerve centres of the information age, workshops of innovation and frontlines of interaction in a globalizing world. Today, the majority of the world population lives in towns and cities and that ratio continues to rise further. Thus, our overall social and economic well-being is intimately and progressively linked to healthy and balanced urban development.

In our time, ideas, people and goods travel, as do criminals and contraband, from one country to another through urban centres and they bind us all in virtually one chain of events and fortunes. It underlines the conspicuous need for a shared vision, goal and strategy to address the problems of cities.

Sustainable urban development is a challenge facing developed and developing countries alike, though to a different extent. If decaying inner cities have become a growing problem for advanced countries, insufficient and underdeveloped urban infrastructure and services to cater to a burgeoning urban population have been the crux of the problem in developing countries.

In both cases, urban infrastructure suffers, slums grow and crime rises, making cities less liveable. It clearly indicates that we must invest more in rural development to retain rural people by creating opportunities where they are, and in urban development to make cities safer and more vibrant.

In Nepal, nearly 14 per cent of the population lives in cities and towns, and that number is growing at a rate of 4.23 per cent. Urbanization has been largely

spontaneous and unplanned, with deficient services. Of late, we have evolved a National Urban Sector Strategy and National Shelter Policy to help orderly and efficient urban and shelter management.

Fortunately, 86 per cent of our people live in their own houses with clear title, leaving only a small percentage in need of protection for their tenure. Many rights of women, including inheritance for unmarried women and an equitable share of the husband's property for estranged wives, are accepted and largely observed.

Provisions of free secondary education and primary health care as well as micro-credit, remote area development and other grass-roots programmes to mainstream and uplift the weak and vulnerable are lending momentum to social transformation. Environment-friendly development and phasing out of polluting vehicles and industries from principal urban centres, such as the Kathmandu valley, have been the thrust of the Government.

From early 1990s, the democratic Governments have promoted partnership between the public and private sectors and recently, the Local Self-Governance Act has been enacted to empower people and strengthen local authorities for them to become a powerful force for change. Civil society is active in social and economic sectors, including the housing field.

The result of all these efforts has been positive. Economic growth has been sustained at 5 per cent over the past decade and absolute poverty has begun to slightly ease up.

Significant obstacles remain, however. A majority of our housing units in Nepal are substandard, unhealthy and highly prone to disasters. Progress towards gender equality, quality education, health and sanitation, protection for dwellers of rented accommodations and meeting the housing requirements of needy squatters is slow. And we house over 100,000 refugees. We do not have enough resources to invest in urban and rural areas to ensure cities without slums and villages without exodus. And promoting good governance, to which we are committed, takes its own time.

Pervasive poverty is at the root of most of our problems and reducing it is our highest priority. As a least developed country, our limited resources and capacities are no match for our daunting needs. While we strive our best to mobilize domestic resources and to learn from best practices, the global community must help us with increased flows of official development assistance, better trading opportunities, expanded debt relief and support for institutional development so that our people, living in urban and rural areas alike, can lead a decent and productive life.

Only with such support will poor countries such as Nepal be able to meet the goals of the Habitat Agenda.